

Volume 3, Issue 4

April 2002

# *Inside Your Third*

*The Newsletter for the Third Taxing District*

*Two Second Street East Norwalk, CT 06855*

*www.ttd.gov 866-9271*

## **Your Commission**

David L. Brown  
*Chairman*  
Stephen M. Feinstein  
*Commissioner*  
Paul S. Coggin  
*Commissioner*  
John L. Mola  
*Treasurer*

## **Upcoming Events:**

- April 20 Library Open House, 51 Van Zant Street, 9:00AM to 5:00PM, Saturday (corresponds with last day of National Library Week which runs April 14th to April 20th)
- April 22 Regular Commission Meeting, 7:00 PM, Monday, Library, Eunice Van Zilen Room
- May 6 Regular Commission Meeting, 7:00 PM, Monday, Library, Eunice Van Zilen Room

## **Annual Meeting & Update on Library / 51 Van Zant Street**

Approximately 150 people turned out for the Annual Electors' Meeting on March 6th - a good turnout! The most significant business that night had to do with the annual District budget, including the East Norwalk Improvement Association's (ENIA's) request for District funds to renovate the library at 51 Van Zant Street. The ENIA is a private, non-profit organization that receives essentially all of its funding from the District and operates the library on Van Zant Street. As storied in the newspapers the ENIA had sought \$1,800,000 from the District for a series of renovations including handicap accessibility. These funds were to complement a \$500,000 State library grant application, prepared by the ENIA on behalf of the District, currently pending State approval.

Many people spoke in favor of the library itself, however concerns arose because of the large price tag, the fact that initially only a single alternative was being proposed by the ENIA, and also because the building at 51 Van Zant Street is owned by the District not the ENIA.

As a way of supporting the library being operated by the ENIA, the Electors approved a budget which sets aside \$550,000 in grants and matching funds for accessibility and related improvements to the building. However the budget requires the ENIA to implement a series of check-and-balances, report back on its financial condition and to be more forthright about its ongoing operations. To address concerns about the management of this capital project, the District budget also requires the formation of a building Steering Committee to look at multiple alternatives at various price points and to get more input from the public at large. The Steering Committee will be comprised of people put forth by the District and the ENIA - helping ensure the library project goes forward in a col-

laborative, open way.

The FY 2003 budget (which begins July 1st) passed by roughly a 5-to-1 margin.

To make the library project a success, we need participation from the public! To get involved on the Steering Committee or if you'd like to help out in any way, please contact District Treasurer John L. Mola at 853-1135 or at [j.l.mola@worldnet.att.net](mailto:j.l.mola@worldnet.att.net). Also, special thanks for Msgr. William Schyed of St. Thomas the Apostle Church for use of the Parish Hall on East Avenue for the annual meeting!

## **Electrical Department General Manager**

On March 25th, Mr. Victor Tenore, who has served the District for the past approximately 14 years, gave notice that he is leaving his post at General Manager of the Electrical Department. "Victor and the entire Department staff helped the District provide reliable electricity and a high level of customer satisfaction. We had hoped to reach an employment agreement and we're very sorry to see him go", says Commission Chairman David L. Brown.

Although it may take several months to find a permanent replacement, the Commission is confident that the Department will run smoothly during this transition period. Also a result of Victor's departure, nominations are being sought for District Clerk (details on reverse of newsletter).

The new employment agreement offered to Victor was drafted up by District Attorney Lawrence Dennin, Jr. and it provided a renewable one-year term with the same responsibilities and general benefits as his former contract. It would have also provided a 3.5% salary increase, bringing his base salary up to \$115,000.

## Survey Results

East Norwalkers responded in excellent fashion. As of March 5th nearly 300 surveys had been returned (summary below). Surveys continue to come in and by the middle of April results will be posted on the District website, [www.ttd.gov](http://www.ttd.gov). The numbers below correspond to the survey question number.

1. Top three issues identified as being "very important": competitive electric rates (189 tallies); crime & safety (185 tallies); and electrical infrastructure & security (135 tallies). Control of litter & dog feces gained the 4th top spot, as it racked up a combined total of 214 "important" and "very important" tallies.
2. Regarding areas which people feel need to be revitalized, the following gained the most "Yes!" tallies: Ludlow Shopping Plaza (148 tallies); Fort Point Street between East Avenue and Seaview (126 tallies); and East Avenue between highway and railroad bridge (116 tallies).
3. Of those that expressed an opinion about whether or not the District Commission should play an active role in affairs in East Norwalk, 74% said "Yes" the Commission should be active.
4. A big majority of people (80%) indicated that they don't favor putting sports fields on Taylor Farm.
5. Most people (86%) are aware, to some degree, of the District's role in community events such as the tree lighting and summer concerts.
6. Twenty-one percent reported they had used the library at least 3 times during the past year.
7. Regarding how potential improvements to the library building should be funded, 48% said either they'd be willing to support it to a degree or that they want more information. However, 40% stated they're not willing to fund such a project at this time.
9. Regarding what should be done with excess funds, 47% said that they should be used for local improvement projects; 26% said they wanted lower electrical rates; 20% would rather keep most of it for a rainy day; and 7% had no opinion.
12. Approximately 40% don't favor traffic calming measures such as speed humps, etc.; 60% do favor such measures.
13. Concerns about traffic islands were mixed, with about half of the respondents indicating they were somewhat happy, and about half saying they should be improved.
14. An overwhelming majority of ratepayers (84%) indicated they are happy with their electrical service.
15. Slightly more than half (53%) said either "Yes" or "Maybe" when asked if they favor the use of renewable energy sources, even if it meant a rate increase.
16. Sixty-four percent want to learn more about how the Commission can play an active role in improving East Norwalk.

17. Along with the surveys returned, residents also provided an overwhelming number of written comments and letters to the Commissioners. **Although difficult to respond to everyone individually, all of this important input is being reviewed and will help steer future District policies and activities. Thank you for participating in the survey!**

## Spring is Here!

Now's a great time to look for loose wires resulting from winter's wrath & to look for potential obstructions to wires coming from the pole to your house. Before leaves come out on trees, take a quick look for branches that are touching wires. Keep in mind that that branches will tend to hang lower in the summer (added weight of leaves & water).

If there are multiple wires coming from the pole to the house, the electrical wire is generally the top wire. Your Electric Department is ready to serve you, call the office at 866-9271 to report any concerns, such as branches to be trimmed away from electrical wires.

## Call For Members!

Your involvement are critical in helping the District run properly and in strengthening our community!

District Clerk, appointed by the Commission. Responsible for posting meeting announcements, agendas, distributing minutes, etc. The post had been filled by Victor Tenore. Annual stipend of \$1800. Contact Paul Coggin at 866-1551 or [coggin@attglobal.net](mailto:coggin@attglobal.net) with nominations.

51 Van Zant Street Steering Committee. As noted earlier, to participate in any way at all, please contact John Mola at 853-1135 or at [j.l.mola@worldnet.att.net](mailto:j.l.mola@worldnet.att.net).

The East Norwalk Improvement Association (ENIA) is looking for new members. To become a member, please contact Terry Rooney, President of the ENIA at 847-7387 x15. To get involved with the ENIA Beautification sub-committee, please contact Michelle Beyman at 831-9807 or at [mrbeyma@optonline.net](mailto:mrbeyma@optonline.net).

Traffic Islands & Mini-Parks. The District survey indicated that many people feel there is room for improvement in our traffic islands & mini-parks (e.g., historical signage, curbs and shrubbery). To provide input or help in any way, please contact John Mola at 853-1135 or [j.l.mola@worldnet.att.net](mailto:j.l.mola@worldnet.att.net).

Summer Concerts. The District sponsors a series of free outdoor concerts. If interested in helping organize these (or if you know of some good bands or acts!) contact David Brown at 866-8099 or at [dbrown9@optonline.net](mailto:dbrown9@optonline.net).